

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/580,454	ONO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Chau Nguyen	2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 04/13/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 10-15.
3. The drawings filed on 30 May 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

William S. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
 PRIMARY EXAMINER
 6/21/2005

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Zachary Stern (Applicant's representative), registration #54719 on 06/16/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A document editing system for editing a document in a computer, comprising:

means for discriminating a specified plurality of document areas within an arbitrary area of the document and managing the specified plurality of document areas along with attributes assigned thereto;

means for managing generation and deletion of a tag pair in the document, said tag pair defining a document area and including a start tag that identifies a start of the document area, an end tag that identifies an end of the document area, and a unique identifier which is attached to each start and end tag, wherein said unique identifier is uniquely associated only with the document area defined by the tag pair, each start and end tag includes an attachment symbol, and said unique identifier is attached to each

start tag and each end tag by the attachment symbol; and

means for editing a character sequence provided in the document while information about the specified plurality of document areas within the document is retained or updated.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented); The document editing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said specified plurality of document areas comprise a plurality of types of document areas.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

means for linking at least one linked document to the specified plurality of document areas and passing information about the link to said means for discriminating and managing; and

first means for outputting the at least one linked document linked by said means for linking at least one linked document, by reference to information about the specified plurality of document areas.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented); The document editing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said specified plurality of document areas comprise a plurality of document areas specified within the entirety of the document or arbitrary portions thereof, and wherein said document editing system further comprises:

means for managing an arbitrary display format assigned to the specified plurality of document areas; and

second means for outputting the document in the arbitrary expression format.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

means for linking an arbitrary process to the specified plurality of document areas, wherein a trigger to execute the arbitrary process is set for the specified plurality of document areas, and information about the link to the arbitrary process is passed to said means for discriminating and managing; and

means for storing the link to the arbitrary process.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A computer implemented method of preparing a tag information management table for editing a document, said method comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not an arbitrary character string within the document is selected;

acquiring a tag pair in the document, said tag pair including a start tag and an end tag that define a document area, a position of the start tag, a position of the end tag, and a unique tag ID attached to the start tag and the end tag that is uniquely associated only with the document area defined by the tag pair, if it is determined in said determining that the arbitrary character string is selected, said start tag identifying a

start of the document area and said end tag identifying the end of the document area defined by the tag pair. each start and end tag includes an attachment symbol, and said unique identifier is attached to each start tag and each end tag by the attachment symbol; and

storing a link between the unique tag ID and the tag pair in the tag information management table.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A document editing system for editing a document in a computer, comprising:

a tag management module including a tag setting module which sets a tag pair in the document, said tag pair defining an arbitrary area in the document with a unique identifier, said tag pair including a start tag with the unique identifier attached and located at a start portion of the arbitrary area in the document and an end tag with the unique identifier attached and located at an end portion of the arbitrary area in the document, and said tag setting module storing information on said start tag and said end tag, said unique identifier being associated only with the arbitrary area in the document defined by the tag pair, each start and end tag includes an attachment symbol, and said unique identifier is attached to each start tag and each end tag by the attachment symbol; and

a document management module which manages said start tag with the unique identifier attached and said end tag with the unique identifier attached when preparing or editing a character sequence in the document and which manages the entire

document.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A method of editing a document in a computer, comprising the steps of:

storing in the document a start tag that identifies a start of an arbitrary area in the document and an end tag that identifies an end of the arbitrary area in the document, wherein a unique identifier is attached to the start tag and the unique identifier is attached to the end tag, said unique identifier being uniquely associated only with the arbitrary area in the document identified by the start tag and the end tag each start and end tag includes an attachment symbol, and said unique identifier is attached to each start tag and each end tag by the attachment symbol; and

managing said start tag with the attached unique identifier and said end tag with the attached unique identifier when preparing or editing a character sequence in the document and managing the entire document.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A document editing system for editing a document in a computer, comprising:

a document area manager configured to discriminate a specified plurality of document areas within an arbitrary area of the document and configured to manage the specified plurality of document areas along with attributes assigned thereto;

a tag manager configured to manage generation and deletion of a tag pair in each of the plural document areas, each of said tag pairs defining a document area in the specified plural document areas and including a start tag that identifies a start of the document area, an end tag that identifies an end of the document area, and a unique identifier which is attached to each start and end tag, wherein said unique identifier is uniquely associated only with the document area defined by the tag pair, each start and end tag includes an attachment symbol, and said unique identifier is attached to each start tag and each end tag by the attachment symbol; and

a document editor configured to edit a character sequence provided in the document while information about the specified plurality of document areas within the document is retained or updated.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said specified plurality of document areas comprise a plurality of types of document areas.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:

a link manager configured to link at least one linked document to the specified plurality of document areas and to pass information about the link to said document area manager; and

a linked document output section configured to output the at least one linked

document linked by said link manager, by reference to information about the specified plurality of document areas managed by said document area manager.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said specified plurality of document areas comprise a plurality of document areas specified within the entirety of the document or arbitrary portions thereof, and wherein said document editing system further comprises:

a display format manager configured to manage an arbitrary display format assigned to the specified plurality of document areas; and

a second document output section configured to output the document in the arbitrary expression format.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:

a processing interface manager configured to link an arbitrary process to the specified plurality of document areas, wherein a trigger to execute the arbitrary process is set for the specified plurality of document areas, and information about the link to the arbitrary process is passed to said document area manager; and

a processing library configured to store the link to the arbitrary process.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A computer program product storing computer program instructions which when executed by a computer cause the computer to

perform the following steps:

 determining whether or not an arbitrary character string within a document is selected;

 acquiring a tag pair in the document, said tag pair including a start tag and an end tag that define a document area, a position of the start tag, a position of the end tag, and a unique tag ID attached to the start tag and the end tag that is uniquely associated only with the document area defined by the tag pair, if it is determined in said determining that the arbitrary character string is selected, said start tag identifying a start of the document area and said end tag identifying the end of the document area defined by the tag pair, each start and end tag includes an attachment symbols and said unique identifier is attached to each start tag and each end tag by the attachment symbol; and

 storing a link between the unique tag ID and the tag pair in the tag information management table.

Claim 16-21 (Canceled).

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In interpreting the claims in light of the specification and applicant's arguments, the Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

The prior art of record includes Saito, US Patent No. 5,649,218, Aoyama et al (Aoyama), US Patent No. 6,526,410, Murashita, US Patent No. 6,330,574, Takahashi et al (Takahashi), US Patent No. 6,535,875, and further in view of Ferrel et al (Ferrel), US Patent No. 6,230,173.

Saito discloses a document data storing section stores document data which incorporates tags that separate the document data into data portions to express its structure, and a type storing section stores a pattern of the document data structure expressed by the tags (Abstract, col. 6, line 66 – col. 7, line 8, col. 9, lines 36-54 and col. 13, lines 40-56).

Aoyama discloses a document editing program 104 for editing document (col. 6, lines 40-57), and the document editing program 104 edits structured documents such as tags or anchors (character sequence) and some parts of the body of the document in Fig. 5A are retained, and other parts are updated in Fig. 5B (Figs. 5A & 5B).

Murashita discloses a predetermined code (unique identifier) is assigned to a tag

in a document such as SGML document which contains document data type (col. 3, lines 25-42 and col. 15, line 17 – col. 16, line 25). Murashita also discloses the predetermined code is inserted before each of the tags (start tag) and (end tag) (col. 22, lines 21-33).

Ferrel discloses a tag ID number is generated and put in a Tag ID Lookup Table when the content is linked to a control by the designer, and each tag is converted to a numerical description during the link, and therefore, the tag ID of the node is a number corresponding to a particular tag (col. 33, line 64 – col. 34, line 15 and Fig. 17).

Takahashi discloses adding marks for indicating the start and end positions of each individual element of a text written in SGML, the marks for indicating the start and end positions of an individual element are referred to as “start tags” and “end tags”, respectively, and if the element has an attribute, the name of the attribute can be prescribed in the start tag thereof after the name of the element type (Abstract and col. 13, lines 5-25).

2. Claim 1 is allowed because the prior art of record does not expressly disclose alone or in combination means for managing generation and deletion of a tag pair in the document, said tag pair defining a document area and including a start tag that identifies a start of the document area, an end tag that identifies an end of the document area, and a unique identifier which is attached to each start and end tag, wherein said unique identifier is uniquely associated only with the document area defined by the tag pair, each start and end tag includes an attachment symbol, and said unique identifier is

attached to each start tag and each end tag by the attachment symbol.

3. The dependent claims 2-5 further limit independent claim 1. Claims 6-8 and 10-15 are considered allowable for the same reasons set forth for claims 1-5.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4092. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong, can be reached at (571) 272-4124.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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